

LIVING LIFE ONE DAY AT A TIME

We are an anxious generation, excelling in the dubious art of “making mountains out of molehills.” Yes, worry, anxiety and fear occupy a large percentage of our time. We worry about our finances, our jobs and our health. Thoughts of our material possessions cause us great anguish, and the prospect of growing old frightens some of us to death!

For Christians, however, excessive worry must be viewed as a definite weakness in our faith. We are called upon to place our trust in the Lord and to obediently and willingly accept whatever comes our way each day. In His Sermon on the Mount, our Lord reminds us how pointless it is to worry. “Which of you, by worrying, can add a single cubit to his stature?” (Matthew 6:27) He is quick to point out that our Heavenly Father knows our needs, and He chides us for doubting His ability to take care of them. Christ also provides us with this timely advice: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” (Matthew 6:34)

Are we people of FEAR or of FAITH? In all of life’s difficult moments, we are reminded that Christ is there to strengthen us in our weakness. We must also remember St. Paul’s wonderful words of comfort: “God will not allow you to be tested above your powers, but when the test comes, He will provide you with a way out by enabling you to sustain it.” (1 Cor. 10:13) May we all “seek first the Kingdom of Heaven.” If we do, all of our concerns will vanish, for we will have everything that we could possibly want.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

ABOUT COMMUNION

We are happy that you have joined us today. Indeed, we pray for the “unity of the Faith” for the day when all of Christianity are united as ONE and can share a common Chalice. However, this is not the case as yet. Please note that Holy Communion, the actual Body & Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, is only for Members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession, & arrived before the Gospel reading. However, everyone is welcome to partake of the blessed bread and receive a blessing from the pastor at the dismissal. If you are interested, you may inquire with the pastor how you can become a member.

If you are a guest or otherwise not a regular communicant, please give your baptismal name when receiving.





St. Anthony The Great Antiochian Orthodox Church

4031 Aurora Rd.; Melbourne, Florida
Mailing address : P.O.Box 267, Melbourne, FL 32902
Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor & Dean of South Florida Deanery
Phone: (305) 812-4940 , E-Mail: elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com
Pastor's address: 2295 Oklahoma St.. W. Palm Beach, FL 33406

WELCOME TO ST. ANTHONY'S

Where people from around the world come together to serve God and our community. We are glad you are worshipping with us today! This Church is one community of many in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Church of Antioch belongs to two thousand years of evangelization, teaching, history, and tradition which expresses the continued commitment of its members to the Orthodox Christian faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

St. Anthony Church is a Pan-Orthodox community, under the omophorion of His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X within the Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. If you are a first time visitor, please fill out the guest form located on the literature table. We want you to feel at home in prayer and worship. Please submit your names to the ushers and introduce yourself to Fr. Elia at the end of the service so he may welcome you personally.

Following services, please join us for sharing of fellowship, coffee, and food.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

TONE 7 / EOTHINON 10

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

HOLY APOSTLE TIMOTHY & ANASTASIOS THE PERSIAN

VENERABLE JOSEPH THE SANCTIFIED OF CRETE

~ During the Little Entrance, chant the Resurrectional Apolytikion. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead..." After the Little Entrance, chant these hymns in the following order:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. TIMOTHY IN TONE FOUR

Since thou hadst been instructed in uprightness thoroughly and wast vigilant in all things, thou wast clothed with a good conscience as befitteth one holy. Thou didst draw from the Chosen Vessel ineffable mysteries; and having kept the Faith, thou didst finish the course, O Hieromartyr and Apostle Timothy. Intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANASTASIOS THE PERSIAN IN TONE FOUR

(**Be quick to anticipate**)

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee * received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. * For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants * and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. * O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

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If you would like to promote your business, and support our bulletin, place your ad here. Only \$100 a year - that's less than \$2 per ad.

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ADRIANE & TED



Serve for a year. Prepare for a lifetime.

Are you 21-29 years old and ready to live your faith with your whole life? Orthodox Volunteer Corps (OVC) is a new ministry, and an official agency of the Assembly of Bishops, that develops and equips Orthodox young adults to lead lives of faithful service for the Church and the world. We offer a 10-month immersive experience to young adults that integrates service placements with vulnerable communities, weekly formation in Orthodoxy and community-based leadership development, living in community, and immersion in the life of the Church.

OVC is recruiting now for the Fall 2023 Cohort!

Application deadline is February 6.



For more info email OVC staff Michael Sider-Rose and Kyra Limberakis at:

info@orthodoxvolunteercorps.org

www.orthodoxvolunteercorps.org

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT

Thou didst become like the zealous Elijah in his condition, and followed John the Baptist in his upright ways. Becoming a dweller in the wilderness, and an establisher of the universe by thy prayer O Father Anthony. Wherefore intercede thou with Christ our God to save our souls.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God; ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke—"Zacchaeus Sunday")

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

~ *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.*



ABOUT THE DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy expresses the entire Christian faith in a continuous song of praise and prayer addressed to God. It is focused on God, not on us. There is nothing just for amusement or entertainment.

Since much of the service is the same every week, worshippers know it and can participate personally, either by singing along or just by prayerful attention. Worshippers are surrounded by icons (pictures of Christ and the saints), which remind us that we are participating, while on earth, in the worship of all the angels and saints in heaven. The entire service (except for the sermon) is sung. The words are all from Scripture or ancient Christian texts. Please follow the service in the books available in the pews. Weekly changes will appear below and marked with a corresponding letter in the service book.

Announcements



January 22nd
January 29th

Epistle Readers
Carry Matos
Jennifer Riter

HOUSE BLESSINGS ARE IN PROGRESS (see form in the inserts)



Next Bible Bowl Practice for Teens is Thursday, January 26th.
It will be virtual in our BAND group.
Please reply on Band if you can attend.

Happy Chinese New Year!

Fix Feng Shui in your house by getting rid of clutter.
Donate your unwanted treasures to our Garage Sale
or get a table and keep your profits.

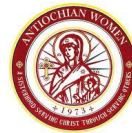
Donated items can be dropped off before or after
Vespers Saturday/Wednesday or after Divine Liturgy
on Sunday. You can place the items in the fellowship hall
on a back table. Deadline for drop offs is January 31.
January 31 Michealle will be at the Church at 10am-2pm accepting donations.
If the drop off times do not work or if you need a donation pick up,
please call Holly (660-287-7860) or Michealle (301)787-1174
Thank you for your support!



FOOD FOR THE NEEDY (Basket in the Foyer)
Please remember to bring non-perishable food items.
You can donate double by shopping Buy One get One Free! ;)

“WELCOMING GIFTS” BOOK DISCUSSION

Next book reading meeting is tentatively scheduled
for Saturday, March 11 at 4pm.



2023 Calendars

They are here with beautiful iconography inside.



Please make a donation of \$5 to Sunday School Sunday School.

Thank you to Eddie and Joyce Smeen at Skewers Restaurant for sponsoring our calendars!



Please pray for the healing of John Thieme, Debbie Thieme, Ann Shark, Jennifer Glass, Beverly Delida, Lisa Zolton, Tatiana Jones, Gabriella Baika, Ted Theodoropoulos, Susan Perers, Lou Abraham, Alix Hall, Nina and Diogo Penas, Beth Manzini, John Archambeau, Alex & Soula.



Jim Kando

Holy Land Pilgrimage

FROM Miami Airport (MIA)

September 12 - 21, 2023

Package Price: \$3990



Amal Kando

10 Days Pilgrimage Tour to The Holy Land

Day 1 Departure from USA
Day 2 Arrive to Tel Aviv airport & transfer to the hotel for Dinner and overnight
Day 3 Breakfast, Drive to Cana, where Jesus performed first Miracle, go to Nazareth to visit the Church of Annunciation
Day 4 Breakfast, Visit Sea of Galilee & Tabaha site of the Multiplication of the Loaves and the Fish
Day 5 Breakfast, Drive to Jordan River Baptismal site, Drive to Hometown of Peter, Andrew and Philip
Day 6 Breakfast, Walking tour of the old city of Jerusalem visiting The Church of St. Ann, & follow the via Delarosa to Calvary Church & the Church of the Holy Sepulcher & the Dome of the Rock
Day 7 Breakfast, Visit to Bethlehem & the Church of the Nativity & Holy Manger, continue to EIN-KAREM birthplace of John the Baptist
Day 8 Breakfast, visit to the place of The Ascension & walk down The Palm Sunday Road
Day 9 Breakfast, Drive to Bethany, visit the Church of Martha & Mary & Lazarus Tomb, continue to Dead Sea where it is impossible to sink. We ascend by cable car, review Mount of Temptation
Day 10 Return to the USA / or optional tour to Egypt to enjoy more fun. ASK FOR MORE DETAILS.

Package Price Includes:

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- Double Occupancy Accommodations in Luxury Hotels Each Night**
- Breakfast and Dinner daily**
- Ten Days Sightseeing in Modern, Air Conditioned Private Bus**
- English Speaking Christian Tour Guide**
- & More**



For more information about this tour please provide your contact information below. Ask for Amal or Jim Kando, your personal guides who travel with you.

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E Mail: ajholytours@gmail.com

PO Box 669501 - Pompano Beach, - FL 33066-9501

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mobile # _____ Email Address _____

Are you interested in Egypt (optional tour) Yes _____ No _____

FAMILY GARAGE

Saturday, February 4th
8am - 12pm

S
A
L
E



Support the Teens by shopping, donating items to be sold or becoming a vendor. Get a 10 x 10 spot for \$15 and keep your profits!

Vendors contact Holly: 660-287-7860

St. Anthony Orthodox Church
4031 Aurora Road, Melbourne, FL

VENDORS WELCOME!!

Proceeds benefit St. Anthony Teen SOYO

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday January 29th immediately after the Divine Liturgy. As we get closer to the meeting Father Elia will send you an E-Mail with the Last meeting Minutes, the Financial Report for the year 2022, and the proposed budget for 2023 and the Proxy Form for those who can't attend personally. They can send their Proxy Form.



THE DESIRE (Sunday of Zacchaeus)

Long before the actual beginning of Lent, the Church announces its approach and invites us to enter into the period of pre-lenten preparation. It is a characteristic feature of the Orthodox liturgical tradition that every major feast or season-Easter, Christmas, Lent, etc.-is announced and "prepared" in advance. Why? Because of the deep psycho-logical insight by the Church into human nature.

Knowing our lack of concentration and the frightening "worldliness" of our life, the Church knows our inability to change rapidly, to go abruptly from one spiritual or mental state into another. Thus, long before the actual effort of Lent is to begin, the Church calls our attention to its seriousness and invites us to meditate on its significance. Before we can *practice* Lent we are given its *meaning*.

This preparation includes five consecutive Sundays preceding Lent, each one of them-through its particular Gospel lesson-dedicated to some fundamental aspect of repentance.

The very first announcement of Lent is made the Sunday on which the Gospel lesson about Zacchaeus (Lk. 19:1-10) is read. It is the story of a man who was too short to see Jesus but who *desired* so much to see Him that he climbed up a tree. Jesus responded to his desire and went to his house. Thus the theme of this first announce-ment is *desire*. Man follows his desire. One can even say that man *is* desire, and this fundamental psychological truth about human nature is acknowledged by the Gospel: "Where your treasure is," says Christ, "there shall your heart be." A strong desire overcomes the natural limitations of man; when he passionately desires something he does things of which "normally" he is incapable. Being "short," he over-comes and transcends himself.

The only question, therefore, is whether we desire the right things, whether the power of desire in us is aimed at the right goal, or whether-in the words of the existentialist atheist, Jean Paul Sartre-man is a "useless passion."

Zacchaeus desired the "right thing"; he wanted to see and approach Christ. He is the first symbol of repentance, for repentance begins as the rediscovery of the deep nature of all desire: the desire for God and His righteousness, for the true life. Zacchaeus is "short"-petty, sinful and limit-ed-yet his ~desire overcomes all this. It "forces" Christ's attention; it bring) Christ to his home. Such, then, is the first announcement, the first invitation: ours is to *desire* that which is deepest and truest in ourselves, to acknowl-edge the thirst and hunger for the Absolute which is in us whether we know it or not, and which, when we deviate from it and turn our desires away, makes us indeed a "useless passion." And if we desire deeply enough, strongly enough, Christ will respond.

In Christ,

Fr. Elia Shalhoub

Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor

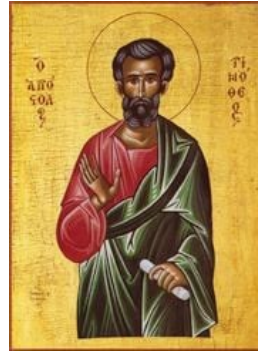
TODAY'S FEAST SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND 2023

15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

TIMOTHY THE APOSTLE OF THE 70

The Apostle Timothy, who was from Lystra of Lycaonia, was born of a Greek (that is, pagan) father and a Jewish mother. His mother's name was Eunice, and his grandmother's name was Lois (II Tim. 1:5). He became the disciple of the Apostle Paul when the latter first preached there, and he followed St. Paul during the whole period of the Apostle's preaching. Afterwards, Timothy was consecrated by him as first Bishop of the church in Ephesus. Under the supervision of John the Evangelist, who governed all the churches in Asia, he completed his life as a martyr in the year 97. He was stoned to death by the heathens, because, as some surmise, he opposed the festival held in honor of Artemis (Diana). The Apostle Paul's First and Second Epistles to Timothy were written to him.



Anastasios, the Persian Righteous Monk-martyr

Saint Anastasius was a Persian by race, the son of a Magus, and a soldier in the Persian army in the days of Chosroes II, King of Persia, and Heraclius, Emperor of New Rome. The Saint's Persian name was Magundat.

When Chosroes captured Jerusalem in the year 614 and took the Precious Cross away captive, Magundat heard the report of the miracles that came to pass through the Cross of our salvation. Being of a prudent mind, perplexed that an instrument of torture should be so highly honored by the Christians, yet seized with longing to learn their Faith, he diligently sought out instruction in the whole divine dispensation of Christ: His Incarnation, Passion, and Resurrection. When he learned what he sought to know, his soul was filled with wonder and joy. Withdrawing to the Holy City, he was baptized by Saint Modestus, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and became a monk, receiving the new name of Anastasius.

As he read the lives of the Saints and the accounts of the holy Martyrs, his heart was kindled with love for them to such a degree that he prayed to be counted worthy of a martyr's end like unto theirs. Finally, unable to contain his longing, he left his monastery. Encountering certain Persian Magi at Caesarea, he rebuked them for their delusion. Since Palestine was still held in the captivity of the Persians, he was taken before the Persian ruler, questioned, beaten, and imprisoned. He was then taken with other captives to Persia, where, after many tortures, refusing to espouse again the error of his fathers, he was hanged up by one hand, strangled with a noose, and beheaded. The translation of his holy relics is celebrated on the 24th of this month.



Affirmation of Potential Candidate for 2023 Election to the Parish Council of St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church of Melbourne, FL

I understand and affirm that I am willing to have my name placed in nomination for election to the (St. Anthony) Parish Council for a regular term of three (3) years.

I understand and agree that it is vital for Parish Council members to be active in the liturgical life of the Church, including attendance and participation in the Sunday Divine Liturgies, Saturday Vesper Services, Feast Day Services, and other services, including the Sacrament of Holy Confession, and affirm that I will participate in these services frequently and regularly.

I understand that the Parish Council operates according to the theology and practices of the Holy Orthodox Church.

I also understand that Council members must set good examples of Orthodox Christian Stewardship, including the offering of time and talents to the church, as well as sacrificial monetary support.

I understand that the Parish Council holds regular meetings once a month and special meetings as needed, and I affirm that if nominated and elected, or appointed, I will do my utmost to attend every meeting.

Furthermore, if nominated and elected, or appointed, I am willing to assume responsibility of chairing a standing or special committee, and/or making myself available to be elected an officer of the council.

I understand that the typical time commitment of a Council member is approximately ten (10) hours every month.

I understand that my agreement to fulfill the above requirements is a prerequisite for nomination.

In signing this affirmation, I pledge to fulfill the above requirements to the best of my ability, with God's help.

Signature of Potential Council Candidate

Print Your Name Here

Date

ST. ANTHONY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2023 PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

It is time for us to begin developing our Parish Council for the year 2023. Please consider nominating someone from the parish who would serve the community well. You could also consider nominating yourself.

Remember that the qualifications for election to the Parish Council are:

- **That the candidate is 18 years of age or older.**
- **That the candidate has been a voting, pledging member of the parish for at least the last six months of 2022.**
- **That the candidate has fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Orthodox Faith.**
- **That the candidate has completed a pledge form for the year 2023.**

In addition, it is required that the nominees' 2022 pledges, as well as Archdiocesan dues, be paid and up to date.

The Following Parish Council members' term is up:

Debbie Thieme, who has already served 2 terms. She can't be elected for another Term but she can be appointed.

Michealle Carey her Term is up, she is eligible. She can be elected for another Term.

Being a Parish Council member means more than just attending a monthly meeting. This responsibility also requires the member to chair or be on committees when called upon, throughout the years of Parish Council membership. In addition, participation at functions and work days is also required. The nominating committee will arrange a meeting with each candidate to ensure their qualifications and willingness to serve.

Please turn in or mail completed nomination forms to Susan Perers (Chairman of the Nominating Committee) or Fr. Elia.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Nominating Committee are Susan Perers, Alix Hall & Fr. Elia
St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church**

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

After filling out the form, give it to Fr. Elia or Susan Perers:

I would like to nominate _____ to serve on the Parish Council of St. Anthony Church. I understand that the nomination is subject to the qualifications for election that are stated in the Constitution of St. Anthony Church. I also understand that the person nominated must accept the nomination in order to be elected. Elections will take place on January 29, 2023 at the General Assembly Meeting of the parish.

Lust ...

by Abbot Tryphon

Since the eyes and the ears are the doors of the soul, an Orthodox Christian must not leave the body without attention. Unlike the religion of Gnosticism, which teaches the separation of soul and body, with the physical world being evil and something to be overcome, historic Christianity teaches the unity of the body and soul, with the physical world being transformed and made anew in Christ. This means that, while caring about one's soul, an Orthodox Christian must not leave the body without attention. The body is given over to temptation, which is rooted in the mind. As Christians we know that we must never play with temptations, for in doing so we have already fallen half-way. Thus, an Orthodox Christian who takes his salvation seriously would never enter into flirtation as though it were a sport, for he would know this to be a dangerous game. Temptations gain hold when we entertain dirty thoughts and ideas, sometimes by allowing our eyes and ears to entertain things that can overcome our will, causing us to fall. It is much easier to stop a temptation in the beginning, than to do battle with a seductive idea once it has gained entry. A person who wants to prevent a burglary makes every effort to prevent a burglar from gaining entrance in the first place. Like taking precautions that will prevent a burglary, we must never allow ourselves to entertain temptations, for that would be like inviting a criminal into your home with the intent of trying to talk him out of stealing from you. Many are convinced that sexual needs are so insurmountable in strength, as to make it impossible to resist. This is only the case when we habitually give in to the passions, and avoid using the tools given to us by the Church to bring our body into submission. If we observe the periods of fasting, especially the Wednesday and Friday days of abstinence, eat moderate amounts of food, avoid the overuse of alcohol, and say no to drugs, we will have taken a big step forward in our struggle with lust. Remember, a healthy body contributes to the health of the soul. Finally, it is good to take to heart the advice of Saint Ephraim of Syrian, "Think about the good so as not to think about the bad." Guard against spending time with people whose jokes and story-telling are occasions for sinful thoughts, and avoid bad company, for "Bad company corrupts good character (1 Corinthians 15:33)

The Very. Rev. Abbot Tryphon is Igumen of All-Merciful Saviour Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington. This and other articles may be found on his website abbottryphon.com

NEW RELEASE



ANCIENT FAITH STORE

By Archpriest
Steven John
Belonick
with Michele Constable
and Michael Soroka

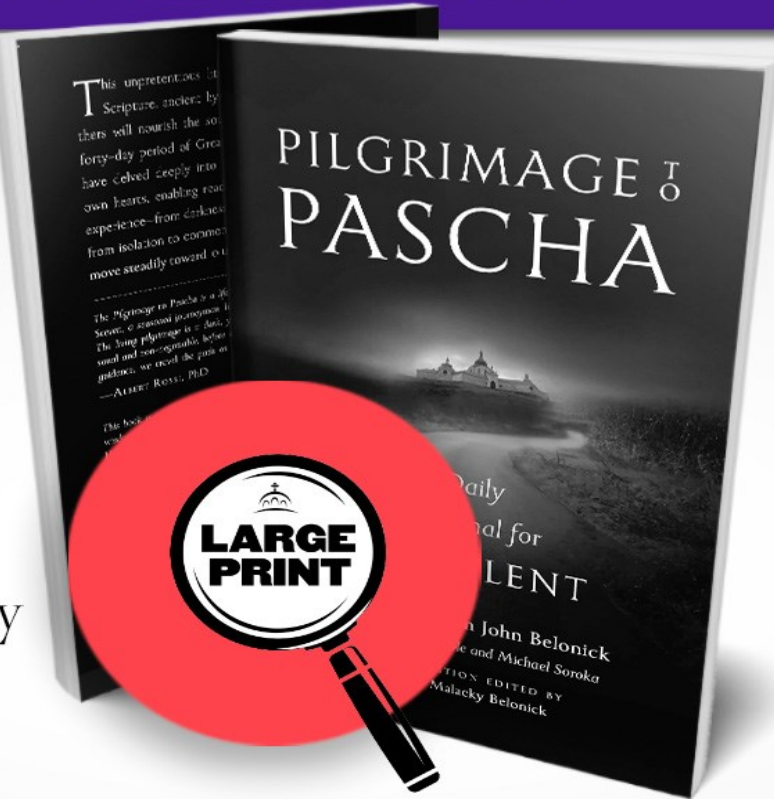
SECOND EDITION

EDITED BY

Deborah Malacky
Belonick

PILGRIMAGE TO PASCHA

A Daily Devotional for Great Lent



Meditations to nourish the soul during Great Lent, now in large print.

This large-print edition of *Pilgrimage to Pascha: A Daily Devotional for Great Lent* includes an industry standard 16pt font on bright white paper. This edition is ideal for the visually impaired, late-night readers, or anyone who prefers reading larger type.

This unpretentious book of meditations based on Scripture, ancient hymns, and writings from Church Fathers will nourish the souls of reflective seekers during the forty-day period of Great Lent. Authors of each meditation have delved deeply into the sins and shortcomings of their own hearts, enabling readers to share in a collective human experience - from darkness to light, from despair to hope, and from isolation to commonality in the body of Christ - as they move steadily toward our Lord's Resurrection.

St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church
4031 Aurora Rd, Melbourne, FL. 32934
Notice of the 2023 General Assembly Meeting
December 27, 2022

Dear Parishioner:

In compliance with St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church's Constitution, I, as the Parish Council Recording Secretary, am required to notify you of the Annual General Assembly meeting. This Annual General Assembly meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 29, 2023**, immediately following the 10:00am Divine Liturgy in the St. Anthony Church, located at 4031 Aurora Rd., Melbourne, FL 32934.

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Opening Prayer and Roll Call
2. Reading the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Assembly Meeting
3. Pastor's Message (Appointment of 1 Member)
4. Election of two (2) Members of the Parish Council (**Nominations will be accepted through January 19, 2023**)
5. Update on the Church Property
6. Chairman's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Organizations' Reports
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Approving the 2023 Budget
12. Adjournment

2/3 of the Total members in good standing shall constitute a quorum. As you enter the Church, the Treasurer and the Pastor will check your name. **Please fulfill your 2022 pledge before the end of the year (if you have not already done so.) According to our constitution, ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING (i.e. who have fulfilled their 2022 pledge and have turned in their 2023 pledge card) WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE/PARTICIPATE in the meeting.**

The following documents will be available one week before the annual meeting in the Narthex of the church: 1) The 2022 financial report. 2) The 2022 General Assembly meeting minutes. 3) The 2023 budget.

We encourage you to submit in writing any questions on the documents so that the Parish Council can prepare accurate and complete responses. **Anyone wishing to include any topic on the agenda MUST submit it in writing to the attention of Fr. Elia no later than January 19th so that it may be appropriately considered for inclusion and the proper preparations made.**

We look forward to your presence and participation.

Sincerely,

St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church Parish Council

x *Debbie Thieme*

Debbie Thieme, Parish Council Secretary

ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

4031 Aurora Rd., Melbourne, FL. 32934

www.StAnthonyOrthodoxchurch.com

Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub

Cell: [\(305\) 812-4940](tel:3058124940)

Elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com

Follow us on "FACEBOOK" <https://www.facebook.com/st.anthoniyorthodox>

2023 HOUSE BLESSING FORM



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED,

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM ASAP.

CHOOSE THREE ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES, AND GIVE DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME AS WELL.

When the priest comes to bless your home please make sure to have an Icon; a candle ready and your list of the names (Living & Deceased) to be prayed for.

Thank you, V. Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor

NAME: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

(HOME)

(OFFICE)

(CELL)

DATES/TIMES REQUESTED (Please list three date/time options):

(Please let me know if you are available or not during the day on Saturday & Sunday only from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 p.m. or if you prefer an Evening Visit.)

Option #1: _____

Option #2: _____

Option #3: _____

DIRECTIONS & EXACT ADDRESS

UNIVERSAL DESK: Terry Mattingly's religion column for 1/18/23.

After the Christmas season and before Lent, Orthodox priests have – for centuries – rushed to visit church-members' homes to bless them with prayers and splashes of holy water flung about with a foot-long brush or handfuls of basil.

Droplets of blessed water end up on beds and bookshelves, TVs and toys, potted plants and paintings, along with everything else.

"It's a chance to start over," said Father John Karcher of St. Nicholas Church in Portland, Oregon. "We clean out the cobwebs of sin. ... Then we make mistakes and muck it all up again. But we do this every year because God doesn't give up on us."

These rites flow out of the Feast of Theophany, which many Orthodox churches in America celebrate on January 6, or on January 19th for those using the ancient Julian calendar year-round. In addition to house blessings and liturgies, Orthodox clergy bless bodies of water – rivers, lakes and oceans. In some parts of the world this requires man-sized holes cut into ice.

The feast's central message, said Karcher, is that "when Christ was baptized, he went into the waters and the waters didn't cleanse him – it was the other way around. He blessed the waters and through them all of creation. ... It's a beautiful thing. God responds to our prayers that he sanctifies the waters – again."

In one rite, priests pray that the blessed water will provide "a fountain of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a loosing of sins, a healing of sicknesses, a destruction of demons" so that worshippers will experience "the cleansing of souls and bodies, for the healing of sufferings, for the sanctification of homes and for every useful purpose."

The mysterious nature of these rites hit home a decade ago when Karcher led St. Innocent Orthodox Church in the Bay Area in northern California.

A parishioner brought a bottle to church from his home icon corner to be refilled with water blessed at Theophany. He poured the remaining holy water from the previous year into an appropriate place – one of two vases containing fresh-cut flowers. A week later, one bouquet had withered, while the flowers in the vase with holy water remained fresh. After another Sunday or two, people began taking pictures -- noting how the "holy water flowers" stayed fresh. It took more than six weeks for the flowers to dry.

"No plant food or preservatives were added to the water of either vase," noted the nationally known bioethics writer Wesley J. Smith, a member of the parish. "Neither, as far as I know, had either been touched since."

After receiving a photo, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco noted: "It is wonderful when God breaks into our ordered world with its assumptions and categories and does something small that disturbs them. It is like a little nudge to say -- 'I am still here and still in charge no matter what you think.' " Smith included that statement in an online post that has circulated ever since.

"We didn't sensationalize what happened," said Karcher. "We didn't make a big deal out of it. ... But it's a memory that has lingered for us." This is, after all, a Theophany mystery worth pondering, he added.

It is always controversial when believers describe events of this kind, Orthodox writer Frederica Mathewes-Green once noted, in a "Tasteless Miracles" commentary for National Public Radio. It's understandable when skeptics reject miracle claims.

Meanwhile, some openly mock possible miracles that are small and even somewhat strange – like sweet-smelling tears forming on icons of the Virgin Mary.

"There are others who do believe in God, but just can't believe he'd do something like this," she said. "It's – to tell the truth, it's kind of tacky. It's showy, and sentimental. God, if he's any kind of respectable deity at all, must be a paragon of exquisite taste." Simple humility is the proper response, she added.

Karcher said he considers that mysterious vase of flowers a "little love note from God. ... God sent us a bouquet to show us that he is with us. "I'm not sure that I can explain little signs like this to nonbelievers. ... But believers can ask: 'If God can do something like this with flowers, what can he do with us?'"

Terry Mattingly (tmatt.net) leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tenn. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

2023 PLEDGE DRIVE

Thank you to all who already have signed the form.

Total from 25 pledges is 79,180.00

Fr. Elia and Kh. Odette Shalhoub

Deborah Abdo D'Ambrosio

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Michealle Carey

Jeff and Holly Dick

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William Snell and Susan Perers

Tristan and Jenny Riter

Alex and Bobbi Skaff

Patricia Smith

Mark and Lori Sorenson

Priscilla Spinola

Deborah Thieme

Isaac Vaughn

(Our Goal for 2023 is \$90,000.00)

All Pledge & Tithing members Names will be listed in the Bulletin

**THE ARCHDIOCESE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT (\$50.00) PER BAPTISED SOUL
EVERY PARISHIONER IS RESPONSIBLE TO PAY THIS ASSESSMENT ONCE A
YEAR BESIDE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE CHURCH.**

**IF YOU HAVEN'T SUBMITTED THE ASSESSMENT MONEY YET,
PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS YOU CAN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

EPIPHANY 2023 – BLESSING OF HOMES

The central sign of our acceptance of God's sanctification of the creation is the blessing of the homes of faithful Orthodox Christians.

We bless homes:

- a. To reveal the home as what God created it to be, a way to heaven.
 - b. To rid the home of every evil.
 - c. To know that the family is a small church unit in Christ, to consecrate the home and all activity in it to God.
 - d. To have the home and all who live in it with the fullness of God.
- Only the Church reveals what life is, and she alone is the Kingdom of God on earth. The Church lives within Christ, revealing Him to us. As the Church, we sprinkle blessed water throughout the home, as we chant, ***“When you, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the Fathers voice bore witness to you and called you His Beloved Son, while the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed these words. O Christ our God, who has appeared to us and has enlightened the world, Glory to you.”***

The priest consecrates the home to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in this act, the Church blesses, reveals and sanctifies.

When the priest comes for the house blessing, please adhere to these guidelines:

1. *Have as many family members there as possible.*
 2. *Setup a place for prayer, in the dining room or kitchen, with an icon and a candle.*
 3. *Print the first names of those for whom specific prayers are to be offered, including all family members on a sheet of paper, making a clear distinction between living and departed.*
 4. *Take this time to get to know Father Elia better, asking any questions you may have.*
 5. *If a child needs some time to talk to Father, respect his/her privacy and make the opportunity.*
 6. *Make Father Elia aware of any special needs you may have.*
 7. *Tell Father Elia about any family members who are in nursing homes or in need of a visit*
- Please remember that Father Elia will be making many visitations. A lengthy social visit may not be possible at this time. If you would prefer a visit outside the Epiphany season, please let Father know.*